

## Boston Redevelopment Authority

James E. Cofield, Jr./Board Member

City Hall  
1 City Hall Square  
Boston, Massachusetts 02201  
Telephone (617) 722-4300

December 13, 1978

Mr. Robert L. Farrell, Chairman  
Boston Redevelopment Authority  
One City Hall Square  
Boston, Massachusetts 02201

Dear Bob:

Pursuant to our conversation earlier today, I would appreciate your placing two items on the agenda for the Authority's December 14 meeting for discussion and action. I am prepared to move both of these items for a vote at tomorrow's meeting.

Firstly, in the interest of public disclosure, I feel that it is appropriate for the Authority to reconsider its policy with respect to public disclosure or the lack thereof of no bid contracts. Certainly, the Authority will have a continuing need to let emergency contracts for which there is insufficient time to obtain competitive bids. Also, the Authority will continue to engage contractors for certain work, primarily for professional services, for which competitive bidding is not required and is sometimes difficult to obtain. Thus, in view of some very real constraints that make it impractical for the Authority to obtain competitive bids for certain types of work, the Authority should, at the very least, make full disclosures concerning no bid contracts. Such a policy would result in a more complete review of this work from the Authority's standpoint, and it would clearly be in keeping with the letter and spirit of federal disclosure requirements.

Secondly, I feel that it is appropriate for the Authority to reconsider its policy of providing special and additional compensation to office holders of certain offices of the Authority, namely the treasurer. As members of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, each of us is allowed compensation of \$7,500 a year. The amount of this compensation has been reviewed and approved by both the City Council and the State Legislature. Additionally, one certainly assumes that some members will accept additional responsibilities as officers when they are appointed to various boards and that office holders accept the challenge and the commitment of time and energy to fulfill these duties.

It is clearly my view that the compensation paid to the treasurer is excessive (the compensation with a cost of living benefit is even higher than the compensation the office holder receives as a board member), and that the Authority's policy of compensating certain officers who are members of the Board should be discontinued effective December 31, 1978. There is no question in my mind that the Authority would receive at least an equal level of commitment and effort from

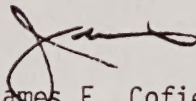
Mr. Robert L. Farrell, Chairman  
Boston Redevelopment Authority  
Page 2.

December 13, 1978

the same officeholder or another equally qualified board member, thus, presumably, there would be no diminution of quality in that office.

I think we all witness a change in public expectation with respect to public officials from time to time, and indeed, it is incumbent upon us to demonstrate that we have the capacity to grow and to respond in a responsible manner.

Very truly yours,



James E. Cofield, Jr.

JEC/je



